

SB 14 by Fraser

Highlights

- Requires voters to show a photo ID, except that people 70 or older as of January 1, 2012, may continue to vote with just their voter registration card
- Acceptable photo ID includes an unexpired card issued by DPS (for most this will be driver's license), a military ID, a passport, or a citizenship certificate with photo
- Requires DPS to provide a free photo ID to any registered voter who requests an ID
- Allows a voter to cast a provisional ballot if he/she does not have a Photo ID and return within 6 days with Photo ID to have the ballot counted
- Requires SOS and voter registrars to educate the public and train election workers on the new requirements, including mailing notice to each voter and posting notice outside all polling places
- Increases criminal penalties for illegal voting (mandatory jail time)

Why I made the law stronger:

"When I filed SB 178 in November (and re-filed SB 14 this month), I decided that a true photo identification bill was a better solution than the bill I proposed last session.

We've had two additional years to see Photo ID laws working in other states and two additional years to see that voter fraud is still a problem.

Only a true photo id bill, can deter and detect fraud and can protect the public's confidence in elections. Plus, I believe it simpler and less confusing for the voters."

What the Supreme Court Requires of Voter ID Legislation:

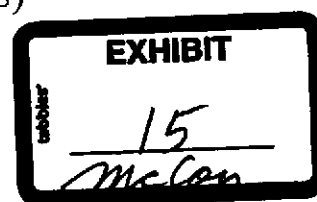
- LEGITIMATE STATE INTERESTS
 - Deterring and detecting fraud
 - Improving and modernizing election procedures
 - Protecting against fraud enabled by inaccurate registration rolls
 - Counting only eligible voters' votes
 - Protecting public confidence in elections
- MEASURES REQUIRED TO OFFSET BURDENS ON VOTERS
 - Access to free photo ID cards (SECTION 18)

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- Availability of provisional ballots and absentee ballots (SECTIONS 7 & 16)
 - Ensure that obtaining ID is no more inconvenient or burdensome than usual act of voting (SECTION 18)
- MEASURES RECOMMENDED TO OFFSET BURDENS ON VOTERS
 - Phase-in over 2 election cycles (Requirement effective 2012)
 - Exception for certain elderly voters (SECTION 7)